

SECOND ADD 35 (MITCHELL-MARTIN TEXT)

XXX THE SOVIET UNION

(CONTINUING TEXT) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS INCIDENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASED THE ABOVE RECORDING, LT. GENERAL JOHN SAMFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, SPEAKING ON THE NSA INTERNAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, SUGGESTED THAT NSA PERSONNEL REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSION OF ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE C-130 FLIGHT. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF THE C-130 HAD REALLY FLOWN WITH THE SOLE INTENT OF GATHERING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, NSA WOULD HAVE HAD NOTHING TO CONCEAL.

DESPITE GENERAL SAMFORD'S SUGGESTION, NSA EMPLOYEES DID DISCUSS AMONG THEMSELVES THE POSSIBLE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES OF THE C-130 INCIDENT FOR THE UNITED STATES. A HIGH OFFICIAL OF NSA TOLD WILLIAM MARTIN THAT THIS PARTICULAR C-130 PLANE WAS CARRYING ELECTRONICS SPECIALISTS AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FOR RECEIVING AT CLOSE RANGE THE SIGNALS OF SOVIET RADAR TRANSMITTERS. THIS OFFICIAL ADDED THAT THE TURKISH-ARMENIAN BORDER HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY CROSSED IN ORDER TO GET INTO IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF SOVIET RADAR INSTALLATIONS.

IT SHOULD BE CLEAR EVEN TO A LAYMAN THAT INFORMATION ABOUT RADAR DEFENSES HAS NO BEARING WHATSOEVER ON THE PROBLEM OF ASCERTAINING WHETHER OR NOT THE SOVIET UNION IS PREPARING FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK. THIS INFORMATION CAN BE UTILIZED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DEFENSE POTENTIAL OF THE SOVIET UNION.

MEANWHILE, VARIOUS U.S. OFFICIALS CONDEMNED THE SOVIET UNION FOR ALLEGEDLY SHOOTING DOWN THE C-130 WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REASON. HUBERT HUMPHREY SAID IN EFFECT THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD NOT HAVE SHOT DOWN THE C-130, AND SHOULD REFRAIN FROM MOLESTING U.S. PLANES IN THE FUTURE. HIS ARGUMENTS ASSUMED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE INCIDENT WERE TRUTHFUL, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS THE INJURED AND INNOCENT PARTY.

THINKING THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY AND PERHAPS MOST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE IGNORANT OF THE FACTS, WE DECIDED TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH A CONGRESSMAN AND SEE IF THIS WAS THE CASE. IN FEBRUARY 1959 WE OBTAINED AN APPOINTMENT WITH A CONGRESSMAN WHO HAD PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCEALING FROM CONGRESS PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT THE C-130 INCIDENT.

DURING THIS APPOINTMENT, WE DISCUSSED THE STATEMENTS OF HUBERT HUMPHREY AND COMMENTED ON THE FAILURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO KEEP CONGRESS CORRECTLY INFORMED. WE EXPLAINED TO HIM THE NATURE OF THE C-130 INTELLIGENCE MISSION, AND INDICATED THAT WE FELT SUCH VIOLATIONS OF THE AIR SPACE OF OTHER NATIONS WERE DANGEROUS TO WORLD PEACE.

OUR CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED WHEN THE CONGRESSMAN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, MR. WILLIAM MACOMBER, WHO REQUESTED HIM TO REFRAIN FROM FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE C-130 INCIDENT. AGAIN, IT IS CLEAR THAT IF THIS PLANE HAD BEEN ENGAGED SOLELY IN GATHERING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE HAD NO REASON TO BE CONCERNED.